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## BREVITIES

John Rigley left Monday morning for Dayton, Ohio, where he will attend school.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Parker have returned from a several weeks' outing at Topinabee.

A daughter was born Monday night to Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall, 318 East Main street.

Rev. William Webbink of Forestville, is the guest of his parents, Rev. and Mrs. G. W. Webbink.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Gallagher returned Sunday from a two weeks' stay in the southern part of the state.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Carner, of Riverdale, are guests of their daughter, Mrs. C. W. Parkinson, East Main street.

Walter B. Towler, of Burton, and Miss Lela Elda Sisco, of Perry, O., were married by Justice Day in his court here Saturday.

Sergeant Clarence A. McCall of this city has been at Camp Perry, O., to participate in the national rifle and pistol matches.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Lohman of Detroit, who have been guests of relatives here, returned to their home in Detroit Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Parmenter of Williamston, who have been guests of Mr. and Mrs. Byron Thompson, have returned to their home.

Mrs. Henry Johnson, East Oliver street, returned Sunday from a two weeks' stay in Detroit, where she was the guest of her children.

Miss Grace Trumble died at the home of her sister, Mrs. George Sutter, East Comstock, Thursday, at 11 o'clock, after an illness of several days.

Funeral services were held this afternoon at two o'clock at the Pittsburg church for Isaac Lewis, who died Tuesday at the home of his brother, Charles Lewis.

Mr. and Mrs. August Schmidt and children, who have been the guests of friends here for some time, have returned to their home in Hammond, Indiana.

Miss Lucile Colby has returned to her home here after a three months' trip abroad. Mrs. Rudolph Colby and Miss Lucile motored to Flint Tuesday for a short stay.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy E. Gallup and two small daughters, of Toledo, have returned to their home after spending the last ten days with Mr. and Mrs. Graham Young, North Howell street.

A truck belonging to the Isbell Bean Co. and a Ford coupe driven by Harold Bentley collided at Oliver and Shiawassee streets, Wednesday night, damaging both to some extent. No one was injured.

Dudley Brewster, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Brewster, who has been a member of the Round Lake orchestra during the summer months, has accepted a position as organist in the Gladner theater in Lansing.

Janet, the four-year-old daughter, of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Adams, 106 South Elm street, died Monday night of scarlet fever. Interment took place Tuesday afternoon at Oak Hill after a prayer service at the home.

Mrs. A. D. Alliton and Howard Alliton went to Pontiac today to attend the sessions of the Detroit Conference of the Methodist churches. Mrs. Alliton is a delegate from the church and Howard represents the Sunday school.

Gordon Schneider, who for the last six years has been connected with the C. R. Schneider wholesale meat business in Durand, has accepted a position with the Owosso Packing Co., and he and Mrs. Schneider have moved to this city.

Miss Marguerite Myers left Saturday for Jackson after spending the summer months in the city. With Miss Grace Ethel Myers she motored in the upper peninsula in company with Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Food and family of Lansing. Mr. Food is a member of the State Department of Education.

The regular meeting of the W. C. T. U. was held Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Alida Skillen. The usual business of the society was transacted and roll call was responded to with comments on the good and evil of the movies. The candidates for public office voted at Tuesday's primaries were also discussed.

The members of Shiawassee Chapter, Order of De Molay, started off the season's work with a banquet and initiation on Thursday evening of last week. At 6:30 the ladies of the Eastern Star served a banquet to about one hundred members of the order. Following the repast Lawrence Hammond, master counsellor, acted as toastmaster and called upon Kenneth Fauth, who responded to the toast, "What We Have Done in the Past."

Harry Craft of Owosso was sentenced to 90 days in jail by Justice Day Thursday for unlawfully driving away an automobile owned by Harry Hoose, his employer. Craft declared that he drove out to his sister's place with the car, which was a taxi and that a bearing burned out. The following day he had the car taken to a garage in Owosso for repairs and it was found there by Constable Geo. Coe. He asserted that he had no intention of doing wrong.

Wayne Moser, son of Harvey Moser, a farmer near Petoskey, was thrown from his horse and seriously hurt when a snag penetrated his left breast near the heart.

John Topolski, 16 years old, was severely injured while performing back dives at a municipal swimming pool in Grand Rapids, when he struck the cement bottom.

The Hayes-Ionia Co. of Grand Rapids, has opened its new finishing plant. It contains 70,000 square feet of floor space.

The 13 granges of Gratiot county are making arrangements for a huge picnic, to be held at Crystal Lake, August 15.

After many years of waiting, Monroe City finally has a well-equipped, modern and up-to-date fire-fighting apparatus.

A Farmer-Merchant day was held at Lake City, when business men feted the farmers of the surrounding district.

To prevent the dust nuisance the village of Homer will oil its main street.

Jack Vercelli, 28 years old, and James Trevarthan, 30 years old, both of Bessemer, were drowned in Ox-bow Lake, near Winchester, Wis. Their canoe overturned while they were fishing.

Second offenders convicted of speeding, reckless driving, driving while drunk or other serious infractions of the traffic ordinances will draw straight jail terms while Judge John Faust presides in Detroit traffic court, he announced.

 Hen Slays Rat.  
Barbourville, Ky.—A singular combat was staged at the home of Charles Smith here, when a rat, trying to capture the chicks of a bantam hen, attacked them. The hen immediately went to the rescue and all that was to be seen was the feathered bantam covering the rat and pecking violently at the intruder. The rat put up a hard fight, but the bantam pecked at its eyes and then proceeded to kill it.

 Diamond in Crop.  
Pilot Rock, Ore.—Occasionally a chicken proves to be a "diamond in the rough." Such a one was purchased from Mrs. James Truman by Mrs. L. E. Roy. Mrs. Truman's lost diamond was found in the chicken's crop. The stone, which was recently lost from its setting in a ring, was returned to the owner, none the worse from the experience than was Jonah after a brief residence in the whale.

FOR SALE in Owosso—A \$450 piano for balance due on contract. For particulars regarding this bargain write Maher Bros. Music House, Jackson, Michigan.

 AUTOMOBILE FOR SALE  
Oakland Sedan, 1920 model, 5 wire wheels, paint and varnish in good condition, good tires, and car in good running condition. Phone 927 Green, or call at 805 West Oliver, Owosso.

## PREVENT FIRES. IT CAN BE DONE

Fires, like wars, are a public waste, and preventable fires are more than a private misfortune; they are a public responsibility. It is the duty of every citizen to help wipe out this national scourge.

The fire losses of the nation from 1915 to 1920, according to the figures given out by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, would build \$5,000 homes for the entire population of Nevada, Wyoming and Connecticut. They would erect 16,722 school houses at \$100,000 each.

Fire is a danger we have always with us, and it may be a matter of life or death to some member of the family. Do we care to expose OUR family to this risk when it can be avoided.

Insurance only partially indemnifies, and for each dollar paid for insurance, the public receives less than fifty cents in return. The only way to reduce insurance rates is to reduce losses; and people who have studied fires all their lives will testify that 90 per cent of them are discovered in time to be checked off the means were at hand. The time to put out a fire is when it starts.

The INSTANTANEOUS FIRE EXTINGUISHER is non-explosive, non-poisonous; it will not freeze nor deteriorate from age, and can be operated by any member of the family. Those who have used this extinguisher, including a number in Shiawassee county, have testified as to their efficiency and say they would not feel safe without them. What they have done for hundreds of others they assuredly will do for you.

Because of the advertising and extra business obtained through users of these extinguishers, when used on accidental fires, no charge is made for the refilling. All that is required is a statement to the Interstate Chemical Company, Detroit, regarding their use for our files, and Frank A. Phillips, implement dealer, 215 West Exchange street, Owosso, (where we are establishing a service station,) will refill them at all times, free of charge.—Adv

## HOW ITALY HELPS HER UNEMPLOYED

Great Construction Work Being Carried Out by the Opera del Combattenti.

## BILLIONS OF LIRE ARE PAID

Policy Contemplates Using Money as Investment to Benefit the State—Reclaiming Marsh Land—Roads and Railways Built.

Rome.—In spite of the low state of national finance Italy is attempting to carry out a broad program for the relief of war veterans and the unemployed by means of land reclamation and other public works.

Italy deals with its problem of war veterans through the Opera Nazionale del Combattenti, organized in December, 1917, with an initial capital of 300,000,000 lire, of which the government contributed 250,000,000. The opera has a social section for vocational training and placing, a financial section for providing credit to individual soldiers or co-operative groups, and an agricultural section, which concentrates on land reclamation.

## Relief for Unemployed.

The general unemployment problem continues to be taken seriously by the government, although there is no fear now of revolutionary outbreaks as the result of the lack of work. In the last few weeks the number of unemployed has decreased slightly, but there are still more than half a million men out of work. Arrangements are almost completed for starting the public works authorized last August for the relief of the situation, but at the moment the apportioning of funds and the increase of the amount of work to be undertaken is occupying the chamber of deputies. The public works appropriation is the parliamentary pork barrel of the country.

Signor Riccio, minister of public works, is attempting to hold the balance between the deputies competing for apportionments and to protect the national budget from being swamped with more projects than it can stand. He stated in the chamber the other day that in the first three months of this year there has already been paid out for labor on public works 1,300,000,000 lire, as against 258,000,000 in the whole year of 1914. He added that although the minister of finance had authorized the expenditure of 3,000,000,000 more for public labor this year, he did not see where the money was coming from.

The grave depression in the metallurgical districts of Milan and Turin is threatening to throw more men on the streets, and as usual the condition of unemployment in the province of Emilia is widespread.

The situation in Emilia is typical of the sort of problem Italian state officials have to face. For the last 20 years the province has been greatly overpopulated, but the surplus citizens have refused to emigrate. There is therefore a chronic floating population of day laborers who practically are a charge on the state.

## Plans of Reclamation.

The government's policy of public works is a sound one in that the money spent constitutes an investment which in future years will more than pay for itself. Instead of providing "busy work" the ministry is carrying out a far-sighted scheme for the transformation of malarial marsh lands into fertile territory. Since 1880 the government has obtained more than 339,000,000 lire in plus value from its reclaimed lands. For this work the government spent 57,783,310 lire for reclaiming 394,027 acres, and private consortiums spent an equal amount, but recovered 394,027 acres. This year the government has appropriated 80,000,000 lire for reclamation of land in eight provinces and work began in March.

Other projects of the government are equally constructive. Roads and railways are being built in Sicily and Calabria, and in the latter province the government is building artificial lakes to store water for the hydroelectric plants in the Sila plateau. This part of the country being dry, irrigation and not draining is the problem, and the government has offered to help local irrigation consortiums by paying one-third of the cost of irrigation projects of benefit to the whole country.

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## SUNNY SONNETS

THE ENGINEER

HE sits upon the iron slab within the engine's little cab, and flies with speed that pales. He runs with perfect ease, of course, the snorting, puffing iron horse that skims the shining rails. He covers mile after mile and greets the flagman with a smile, and rings the clanging bell. The passengers on him depend, they know they'll reach their journey's end, and feel that all is well. He passes city, town and farm and whistles loud and shrill alarm to keep the roadbed clear. He gayly lifts his voice in song and whistles as he flies along, the jolly engineer. He stops to let the waiting crowd rush madly forth with clamors loud to climb aboard the train, he chats a while with his mate, he waits until they shift the freight and then speeds on again. He smiles as the mile posts fly in countless numbers swiftly by—he's getting nearer home. He's thinking of a happy fate, his wife waits for him at the gate beneath a spreading holm. He's thinking of that easy chair, the old briar pipe that's waiting there, that youngster full of fun. He can't restrain a shout of joy, he's like a happy, romping boy, his course will soon be run. It's hats off to the engineer who makes the distant place seem near, who speeds us on our way. You've got to hand it to the man who brings us safely home again and say that he's O. K.

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